

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 17, 2007. Claims 1-17 have been cancelled without prejudice and disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 18-28 have been added. The newly-added claims correspond to those allowed in the counterpart Japanese patent application, now Japanese Patent JPB 3,962,696. Claims 18, 23 and 28 are in independent form.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness, Claims 1-6, 9-14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0153597 (Kanai), and Claims 7, 8, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Kanai* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0172223 (Ying).

The cancellation of Claims 1-17 renders those rejections moot. Applicant believes that his newly-presented independent claims, and the claims dependent therefrom, are allowable, for at least the following reasons.

According to independent Claim 18, the present invention is directed to an information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external apparatus connected thereto. The apparatus comprises two USB controllers (a USB device controller and a USB host controller) and a connection unit having a plurality of connectors.

In the information processing apparatus, a switching unit determines the type of the connected external apparatus, and if it is determined that a plurality of connected external apparatuses includes USB device apparatuses and USB host

apparatuses, connects the USB device apparatus with the USB host controller and the USB host apparatus with the USB device controller.

By using the switching unit, the apparatus of the present invention can provide suitable connections between a plurality of connected external apparatuses and controllers corresponding to the determined type of the external apparatus, if the plurality of external apparatuses are connected to the connection unit.

Thus, by using the switching unit, if the USB device apparatus and USB host apparatus are connected to connectors at the same time, it is possible to determine the type of the connected external apparatuses to provide suitable connection for each connected external apparatus.

First, Applicant wishes to emphasize that *Kanai* is a counterpart of JPA 2002-116853, which was cited as a prior art reference in the Office Action of the Japanese counterpart application of the present application. Applicant's Claim 18, shown above, corresponds to Claim 1 of his mentioned Japanese counterpart application, which has been granted as patentable over *Kanai* by the Japanese Examiner.

Kanai relates to a communication control semiconductor device having a plurality of connectors as shown disclosed in Figs. 5 and 7. However, *Kanai* does not disclose the switching unit recited in Claim 18. According to Fig. 5, a device connected to a connector 2 (31B) and connector 3 (31C) is provided with connections with a host controller or function controller using multiplexer 1 (29) or 2 (30). However, as is described in [0063], connectors 2 and 3 are not both used simultaneously.

Furthermore, in Fig. 5 and 7, there is a connector 1 in addition to the connectors 2 and 3. However, the connector 1 is not connected to a USB host controller 23 via a switching unit. Thus, the connector 1 should be out of consideration.

Applicant submits that from the foregoing it is clear that nothing in *Kanai* would teach or suggest the switching unit recited in Claim 18.

Independent Claims 23 and 28 are method and computer-medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 18, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 18.

A review of the other art of record, including *Ying*, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or the other of independent Claims 18 and 23, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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